

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DG 09-052

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 13, 2009, Northern Utilities, Inc. (Northern) filed with the Commission its Cost of Gas (COG) rates for the period May 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009 (2009 Summer Season). Included in the filing were revised tariff pages and supporting materials for the changed rates. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docket/2009/09-052.htm>.

The proposed residential COG rate is \$0.8020 per therm, a \$0.3162 per therm decrease from the weighted residential COG rate of \$1.1182 per therm for last summer. The estimated impact of the proposed firm sales COG and current LDAC rate on a typical residential heating customer's summer bill is a decrease of approximately \$98, or 18%.

The proposed commercial/industrial low winter use COG is \$0.7497 per therm and the proposed commercial/industrial high winter use COG is \$0.8866 per therm. The rate decrease for the commercial/industrial customers over the comparable 2008 Summer Season rates is commensurate with the residential COG rate decrease.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to: RSA 378 relative to the justness and reasonableness of rates, forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, purchasing decisions related to the current and past summer supplies and capacity, cost allocations between the New Hampshire and Maine divisions, the causes and treatment of any over and under

recoveries, the reconciliation of prior period costs and revenues, and rate impacts. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

An additional issue in this docket held over from a prior docket (DG 08-115, Northern's 2008/2009 Winter COG) includes the question of whether the mechanism that allows monthly changes in the COG rate without further Commission action should be modified to allow greater flexibility.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a hearing be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on April 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Northern, Staff of the Commission and any intervenors hold a technical session at the Commission on March 30, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Northern shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 26, 2009, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before April 15, 2009; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Northern and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before April 10, 2009, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before April 15, 2009.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twentieth of March, 2009.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.